

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** every person is endowed with human dignity and value, and redemption and second chances are Vermont values; and
- WHEREAS,** individuals returning to Vermont's communities from prison often face barriers to finding housing and employment as well as educational opportunities, also known as collateral consequences; and
- WHEREAS,** the Council of State Governments reports that the number of legal collateral consequences of a criminal conviction exceeds 44,000, including 319 unique to Vermont; and
- WHEREAS,** in its vigorous pursuit to offer offenders, particularly young offenders, second chances and reduced collateral consequences, Vermont has robust systems of pre-trial and post-conviction diversion programming, deferred sentencing, juvenile justice initiatives and expungement and sealing laws; and
- WHEREAS,** we can always do better by reviewing those collateral consequences unique to Vermont and determining if, as a policy matter, they remain appropriate; and
- WHEREAS,** it is essential that Vermont's policy-makers provide the needed resources for successful reintegration of those returning to Vermont's communities from prison such as appropriate transitional housing and services, including mental health and substance misuse treatment, long-term affordable housing, appropriate training and tools for workforce development and equitable educational opportunities; and
- WHEREAS,** the anniversary of the death of Charles Colson, who used his second chance following his incarceration for a Watergate-related crime to found Prison Fellowship, the nation's largest outreach to prisoners and their families, falls on April 21st; and
- WHEREAS,** a robust coalition of businesses, congregations, and other organizations across the country has celebrated Second Chance Month since April 2017 through prayer walks, Second Chance Sunday services, briefings, social media campaigns, advocacy, press, Second Chance 5ks, and other events and activities; and
- WHEREAS,** the designation of April as Second Chance Month would contribute to increased public awareness about the need for opportunities for individuals, employers, congregations, and communities to extend second chances.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim April 2022 as

SECOND CHANCE MONTH
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 28th day of April, A.D. 2022.



Philip B. Scott
Governor


Brittny L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs